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**CLAIMS**

1. Use, as active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, of an effective quantity of at least one compound free of carbohydrate units, modifying the physicochemical properties of the surface of the skin and/or of the mucous membranes, so as to prevent or reduce the adhesion of microorganisms to the skin and/or the mucous membranes, chosen so that the decimal logarithm of the mean number of viable bacteria adhering to reconstructed epidermis, after a test consisting in bringing the said epidermis into contact with the test compound for 2 hours at 37°C, is at least 0.3 less than that obtained by a test carried out with water under the same conditions.
2. Use, as active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, of an effective quantity of at least one compound according to Claim 1, characterized in that the decimal logarithm of the mean number of viable bacteria adhering to reconstructed epidermis, after a test consisting in bringing the said epidermis into contact with the test compound for 2 hours at 37°C, is at least 0.5 less than that obtained by a test carried out with water under the same conditions.
3. Use, as active ingredient, in a cosmetic composition or for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition, of an effective quantity of at least one compound according to either of Claims 1 and 2, characterized in that the decimal logarithm of the mean number of viable bacteria adhering to reconstructed

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epidermis, after a test consisting in bringing the said epidermis into contact with the test compound for 2 hours at 37°C, is at least 1 less than that obtained by a test carried out with water under the same conditions.

4. Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the active ingredient is chosen from surfactants, polymers and nonsolid fatty substances at room temperature.

5. Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the active ingredient is chosen from disodium cocoamphodiacetate, oxyethylenated glyceryl cocoate (7 EO), the ricinoleic monoethanolamide monosulphosuccinate salts, oxyethylenated hydrogenated ricinoleic triglyceride containing 60 ethylene units, Poloxamers, polyacrylamides, PEG-20 hexadecenyl succinate, sesame oil, octoxyglyceryl palmitate, octoxyglyceryl behenate, dioctyl adipate, PEG-15 stearyl ether, apricot stone oil, tartrate of branched C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>13</sub> dialcohols and mixtures thereof.

6. Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.1% to 100% of the total weight of the composition.

7. Use according to Claim 6, characterized in that the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 0.5% to 50% of the total weight of the composition.

8. Use according to either of Claims 6 and 7, characterized in that the active ingredient is present in a quantity ranging from 1% to 25% of the total weight of the composition.

9. Use according to any one of Claims 1 to 8, characterized in that the composition is provided in the

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form of a lotion, an aqueous gel, a serum, an emulsion or a dispersion of lipid vesicles.

10. Method of cosmetic treatment for treating disorders linked to the adhesion of microorganisms consisting in applying to the skin and/or the mucous membranes a cosmetic composition comprising at least one compound as defined according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 in a cosmetically acceptable medium.

11. Cosmetic use by topical application of at least one compound as defined according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 in a cosmetic composition intended to reduce bad body odours and/or intended for body hygiene health care.

12. Cosmetic use by topical application of at least one compound as defined according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 in a cosmetic composition intended to combat comedones and/or dandruff.

13. Use of at least one compound as defined according to any one of Claims 1 to 5 for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition intended to be used by topical application to combat mycosis and/or acne.